

Message Text

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TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
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AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 146015

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, VN

SUBJECT: INDOCHINESE REFUGEES - FAMILY REUNION FROM SRV

GENEVA ALSO FOR LOWMAN

1. APPRECIATE REFTEL REPORT ON POSSIBLE MOVEMENT ON FAMILY
REUNIFICATION CASES FROM VIETNAM. WE AGREE WE SHOULD
FOLLOW UP ON THIS APPARENT OPENING, ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT
SHARE HAN AND CUENOD'S OPTIMISM THAT THIS WILL WORK.
SIGNALS WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM SRV DURING PAST YEAR, AND
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RECENTLY, STRONGLY SUGGEST THAT SRV SEES FAMILY REUNIONS
TO U;S. AS SOMETHING TO BE SETTLED IN CONTEXT OF NORMAL-
IZATION OF RELATIONS.

2. RECENT SIGNALS TO THIS EFFECT WERE STATEMENTS BY SRV
RED CROSS OFFICIALS TO ICRC IN GENEVA IN EARLY APRIL THAT
FAMILY REUNIONS FOR WIVES AND CHILDREN OF AMCITS WOULD

HAVE TO BE TAKEN UP IN OFFICIAL CHANNELS BY US AND SRV GOVERNMENTS. SIMILAR COMMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE RECENTLY BY SRV OFFICIALS TO RELATIVES OF AMCITS IN SOUTH VIETNAM.

3. SRV POLICY ON THIS APPEARS TO BE BASED ON MORE THAN NEED FOR US CONSULAR PRESENCE TO ISSUE ENTRANCE VISAS

TO THE U.S. WHICH SRV CLAIMS TO REQUIRE FOR DEPARTURE, SINCE IT HAS APPLIED ALSO TO THE 15 OR SO AMCIT CHILDREN HOLDING US PASSPORTS, WHO NEED NO FURTHER DOCUMENTATION FOR ADMISSION TO US.

4. WE HAVE NO RECORD OF THE "300 CASES" HELD BY UNHCR AND ASSUME THESE RESULT FROM LETTERS TO UNHCR FROM VIETNAMESE IN THE US SEEKING ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING DEPARTURE OF THEIR RELATIVES FROM VIETNAM. WE RECALL UNHCR ALSO RECEIVED MANY APPLICATIONS TO THEIR OFFICE IN HANOI IN 1976-77 FROM VIETNAMESE WANTING TO LEAVE VIETNAM, INCLUDING MANY FROM THOSE WANTING TO COME TO US (INCLUDING FAMILY REUNIFICATION REQUESTS). UNHCR AT ONE STAGE WROTE TO RELATIVES OF AMCITS IN SOUTH VIETNAM OFFERING TO ASSIST IN ARRANGING DEPARTURES, RECEIVED POSITIVE REPLIES FROM MANY, BUT WAS UNABLE TO HELP ANY.

5. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, RATHER THAN EMBARKING ON EFFORT WITH UNCERTAIN RESULTS INVOLVING SELECTION AND CONFIDENTIAL

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PRE-SCREENING OF APPLICATIONS FOR RELATIVES OF VIETNAMESE IN THE US, WE BELIEVE FURTHER EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO SEEK FAMILY REUNIFICATIONS FOR RELATIVES OF AMERICAN CITIZENS, FOR WHOM APPLICATIONS HAVE ALREADY BEEN FILED AND PRE-SCREENED.

6. AS UNHCR REPS NOTED, ICRC HAS TAKEN LEAD ON THESE CASES, AND WE WOULD SUGGEST HAN AND CUENOD DISCUSS SUBJECT WITH ICRC TO REPORT THE APPARENT POSITIVE REACTION THEY RECEIVED FROM VU HOANG. WE WOULD SUGGEST HAN DO THIS WITH HENRI PASQUIER, ASSISTANT TO ICRC DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS, WHO WAS IN VIETNAM IN LATE MAY AT SAME TIME AS HAN AND CUENOD. (REPORT ON PASQUIER'S VISIT WITH ICRC REP MICHEL VEUTHEY COMING BY SEPTTEL.) OUR SUGGESTION WOULD BE FOR ICRC REP IN HANOI FRANCOIS ZENRUFFIN TO FOLLOW UP WITH VU HOANG ON THE CASE LIST COMPILED BY AMERICAN RED CROSS, STARTING WITH THE 15 CASES OF AMERICAN CITIZEN CHILDREN HOLDING US PASSPORTS.

7. IF THERE IS PROGRESS ON THESE CASES WE WOULD OF COURSE ANTICIPATE FOLLOWING UP WITH VIETNAMESE CASES AS WELL.

8. WE WOULD LEAVE QUESTION OF INFORMING THAI OFFICIALS FOR
DECISION BY US EMBASSY AND CONSULAR OFFICIALS IN BANGKOK.
THE SENIOR THAI OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON THIS WEEK FOR

REFUGEE DISCUSSIONS WERE SENSITIVE TO PROBLEM OF
INCREASED INFLUX OF REFUGEES, BUT IT DID NOT APPEAR TO US
THEY WOULD HAVE ANY SERIOUS PROBLEM WITH TEMPORARY
TRANSIT OF RELATIVES DESTINED FOR THE US. VANCE

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